

repeating the steps of transferring, oxidizing, returning and monitoring until the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

2. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of transferring, oxidizing, returning and monitoring are repeated continuously until the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

3. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of monitoring the amount of oxidation of the wastewater by monitoring the oxidation-reduction potential of the wastewater.

4. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: discharging the oxidized wastewater from the tank when the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

5. (Once amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: re-using the oxidized wastewater from the tank when the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

6. (Once amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of discharging the oxidized wastewater further includes the steps of:

providing a post ozonation filtration system for polishing and further reducing contaminants from the wastewater;
routing the wastewater through the post ozonation filtration system.

7. (Once amended) A method for treating wastewater, comprising the steps of: pre-treating the wastewater by separating contaminants therefrom; collecting the pre-treated wastewater in a tank; providing an ozone system; transferring the pre-treated wastewater from the tank to the ozone system; oxidizing the pre-treated wastewater at the ozone system;

returning the oxidized wastewater to the tank;
monitoring the amount of oxidation of the wastewater in the tank; and
repeating the steps of transferring, oxidizing, returning and monitoring until the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

8. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the steps of transferring, oxidizing, returning and monitoring are repeated continuously until the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

9. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of monitoring the amount of oxidation of the wastewater by monitoring the oxidation-reduction potential of the wastewater.

10. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of: discharging the oxidized wastewater from the tank when the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

11. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of: re-using the oxidized wastewater when the amount of oxidation reaches a predetermined level.

12. (Once amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of discharging the oxidized wastewater further includes the steps of:
providing a post ozonation filtration system for polishing and further reducing contaminants from the wastewater;
routing the wastewater through the post ozonation filtration system.

13. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of pre-treating the wastewater includes the step of aerating the wastewater.

14. (Once amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of aerating the wastewater further includes the step of separating contaminants floating atop the wastewater after the aerating step by skimming the contaminants from the top of the wastewater.

15. (Once amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of aerating the wastewater further includes the step of separating contaminants floating atop the wastewater after the aerating step by decanting the contaminants from the top of the wastewater.

Exhibit A attached hereto indicates how original claims 1-15 were amended to produce claims 1-15 as once amended. In Exhibit A, added terms are underscored and deleted terms are bracketed.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the nonfinal Examiner's Action mailed June 17, 2002 and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant responds to the outstanding Action by centered headings that correspond to the centered headings employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Office has requested clarification with regard to the use of "rinse water" in the preamble and "waste water" in the body of the claims. Appropriate correction has been made to the claims to overcome the indefinite rejection.